The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. 24. CHICAGO, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1871. NO. 159.

WASHINGTON.

The San Domingo Matter to Come Up in Congress To-day.

Speculations as to the Probable Action of the House.

Stories Afloat Crediting Other Powers with a Desire to Purchase the Island.

The Interminable McGarrigan Case Again Brought to the Surface.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.
THE SAN DOMINGO RESOLUTIONS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sun. 8.—It is impossible to predict what the action of the House will be to-morrow on the San Domingo resolution. There is a great diversity of opinion as to whether a two-thirds vote can be obtained upon the proposition to take the Senate resolution from the Speaker's table and pass it. If the attempt is made and fails, it is probable that the resolution will be killed by a majority vote alone. It will require the lying aside of each bill which proposes to displace it, and a majority to lead to such a result. Democrats have agreed among themselves to oppose action on the whole subject of San Domingo, with the exception of the Committee on Appropriations, and the

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THE STATE CREDIT.

On the 1st of December, 1870, the bonded indebtedness of the State of Illinois then existing, was $4,800,937. Of that sum, there fell due in 1870, $1,006,-910, and there will fall due in 1871, $1,897,613. In addition to this there are certain bonds heretofore issued by the Governor's proclamation, but not yet presented, amounting to $125,136; making an aggregate of indebtedness, due and to become due by July 1, 1871, of $3,029,340. To meet these bonds there are and will be in the State Treasury the following sums: State sales fund..... $1,516,545.42
Illinois Central railroad fund..... 767,127.12

Total cash on hand..... $2,283,164.19
Interest on Illinois Central railroad bonds, due Dec. 1, 1870 (est.)..... 60,000.00
Total available funds, Dec. 1, 1870..... $2,343,164.19

Less appropriations, Ten Cents, one year..... 15,000

Net balance..... $2,328,164.19

The debt of the State was all contracted prior to the passage of the Legal-Tender act; and is, therefore, payable in gold. That is the supreme law of the land. It is the law of the contract. Honesty demands, and sound policy suggests, a faithful compliance with the law in dealing with the creditors of the State. The city of Chicago, soon after the decision of the Supreme Court, commenced paying interest on its ante-war debt in coin, and nothing in the history of the city has done more to exalt its financial credit in the money markets of England, or the world. The policy of a coin payment is equally as applicable to the State. It may be pressed upon the Legislature with the law. To say the promises to pay gold, other cities have suffered themselves to be used as their coupons, and have yielded to litigation as much as they could, and with loss of credit, is no argument in the mind to pay in the same gold.

The State Treasurer proposes, and the Governor has approved the proposition, that the money now in the State Treasury, and that which may hereafter be received, applicable to the State debt, be converted into gold, and in that form applied to the payment of the debt due and to fall due. We notice that Senator Dore hasintroduced a bill having this object in view, and we hope it will receive the early labor of the House. It may be framed by thousands more vote of both houses of the General Assembly.

The State will have in hand, on the 1st of February, $2,000,000 in national currency. This currency is issued by the United States, and is payable, ondemand, in coin. The State has no to pay her creditors for money borrowed long ago, in times of depreciation of the United States are not available it the payment of that debt. The United States have had in the Treasury vaults, unemployed and unproductive, for over two years, an average balance in excess of its current wants, of $75,000,000 gold coin. On the 1st of January, 1871, this balance reached $80,000,000. The Secretary's estimate of receipts of revenue in coin for the present fiscal year shows that the probable average will not be reduced by expenditure in that time, and the fact that the Secretary of the Treasury holds, and has withdrawn from general circulation, this $80,000,000 of coin, has the effect to produce currency, and hampered to keep up the gold premium, at not less than 10 to 11 per cent.

The State of Illinois, holding the United States demand note which are not legal tender in the payment of her debt, and which are the promises of the government to pay the holder, on demand, by the policy of the Secretary of the Treasury, out of from obtaining the necessary coin to pay her debts, unless at a great expense, equal to one-tenth of the amount of debt to be paid. We are informed that the Legislature of Illinois ought to request Congress to authorize and require the Secretary of the Treasury to receive from the State the $2,000,000 of United States notes no longer a legal tender in payment of the State debt, and to pay in exchange therefor $2,000,-000 of coin out of the $80,000,000 in gold now lying idle in the Treasury vaults and not needed for any public use, save by its withdrawal from general circulation to swell up the gold premium.

We have no doubt that this request, coming from a State which holds $5,000,-000 of the deposit paper of the government, and which pays it not available for the payment of its debts, would be at once granted. Such a course would not only relieve the State of Illinois from the payment of a premium on gold, but would relieve the National Government from the necessity of paying interest on the $5,000,000 of deposit paper. It would be a legal exercise of the power of the Secretary of the Treasury, and by the country at large. This policy has been forced upon the State by the National Government, under the operation of the law, which it would be a legal tender in the payment of debt due from the State. That assumption has been exploded and the State has to pay her debt in coin. If the United States do not do with the State to treat this request, that is to say, if the United States were bankrupt, or, if the premium on gold was not maintained by the persistent withdrawal of this vast hoard from general circulation, or if the national notes were not made to be kept in force as a legal tender for the purpose needed, the State of Illinois might patriotically bear the cost, and make the sacrifice for the common good. But when the government is in receipt of an annual surplus of gold, and hoards gold in order to be in position to pay, legal tenders for the purpose needed, the State of Illinois is, particularly if the Secretary of the Treasury be consulted, entitled to its share of the gold hoard. If possible, the claim by the State becomes so strictly just and reasonable that we question whether it would not meet the hearty approval of all other States, and the co-operation of all departments of the government, outside, perhaps, of the Treasury Department.

We commend this subject to the attention of the Legislature, and, in setting forth the claims here that the financial character of the State must be maintained, and that the credit she ultimately shows in paying the bill, the greater the service that will be rendered the honor and credit of the State and of its people.

LAW REFORM.

Lord Brougham made his first elaborate attack upon the system of law practice in England, which now prevails in Illinois, in 1828.

The agitation of law reform then began, and was developed substantial results in the course of time in modifying the practice in England and in many of the States of the Union. It is not a little remarkable, therefore, that the lawyers and Judges of Illinois have developed action, or even the consideration of this subject, to so late a period as the present. Indeed, it is only in the legislative session of 1869-70 that the legislative power of the State has been urged with all usual intelligence.

Lord Brougham then said:

"The inconvenience of the present practice and the evils of the present system are felt by every man who has any business to do with the courts of law; and I will boldly assert that the whole system, from the beginning to the end, is one tissue of abuses, which require only to be known to be swept away. The existence of the system is a disgrace to the country. Its effects are by Dr. S. S. Walbank yields $2,293.09 to the ton. The vein is a rich argentiferous galena, containing native silver, both bromide and crystallized, sulphide of silver, a small quantity of zinc blende, and very little or no other base metals.

The Superior silver mines are likely to be the sensation of the season for the coming spring.

Rufus Hatch, of Broad street, New York, has issued a circular showing how Commodore Vanderbilt has watered the New York Central and Hudson River stocks by a grand total of $48,684,200 of new stock, issued without a dollar of new capital paid in, or the addition of a dollar to the means of running the road. The watering of Mr. Vanderbilt exceed the whole capital stock of both roads at the time the watering began by $7,384,400, although of the previous stock nearly nine millions consisted of the "watering" which took place at the formation of the New York Central. The total waterings of the road, before and during the reign of Vanderbilt, amount to $56,576,600, on which the people pay interest and dividends annually to the extent of $2,829,-000, and the great watering process still goes on. The watering now amounts to $180,261 to the mile for the main line of those roads, and the annual interest on the same is very nearly $10,000 per mile.

The waterings are to continue so long as increased charges can be made to continue. Mr. Hatch thinks it has been much easier to keep up the rates of charges when what was worth $2.50 per bushel than it now is, with wheat at $1 per bushel. Now if corporations, starting with a given charter, and the whole nation groans under it. Mr. Hatch promises, in future papers, to propose the remedy, which he intimates will involve at least some exercise of the power of Congress "to regulate commerce between the States."

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Mr. Greeley went to Washington and had an audience of the President, with whom, said the telegraphic dispatch, he was in conference for some hours.

A fly or two later still, namely, on Thursday last, Mr. Greeley was chosen President of the County Republican Committee of New York, whereupon he made a speech, which speech he prints next morning in extended type, on the editorial page of the Tribune. At the conclusion thereof he says:

"Does the President-has made some mistakes? Have not all Presidents made mistakes? Does it not require a superior order of intellect to avoid them? Has any President ever been fully equipped for his office? Will any one say that he had better votes a Republican majority in the House of Representatives during the first year of Washington's administration than he had during the first year of Grant's? Was not Washington's second nomination made by a caucus of Congressmen? Was not Jefferson's election in 1801 due to the House of Representatives?"

Whether Mr. Greeley intended, in these apologetic remarks, to favor the renomination of General Grant or not, each reader must judge for himself.

Weight of the Solar System.

Till very recently the sun and planetary system, with the attendant satellites of the latter, were supposed to make up the sum total of the solar system, the weight of the sun being pondered to be about 700 times greater than all the rest of the system. The weight of the sun, as ascertained by the Sandwich Islands observations, is supposed to be 1-3 where the sun is represented by the number 700; and it has been guessed, in short time since, that the weight of the matter outside the sun is as "not one part in 600 of the weight of our central luminary; but, so far as I am aware, no formula has hitherto been invented which would warrant a reference to the truth. By another method, worked out by Mr. Stone, of the Cape of Good Hope Observatory, and published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, the weight of the sun is found to be 1-1067 of the whole system, or 1-355 of the weight of all the planets and satellites. This is a result of considerable importance, as it is the first which has been obtained by any method which can be considered free from hypothesis. The method employed by Mr. Stone is founded on the principle that the sun and planets must move round their common centre of gravity in such a manner that the sun's distance from that centre shall be to the distance of any planet from the same centre as the mass of the planet is to the mass of the sun. The results are 1-1067 for the sun's mass, and 1-355 for the mass of all the planets and satellites. The former of these numbers is the more trustworthy, as the latter depends on the mass of Jupiter, which is not very accurately known. The mean of the two results is 1-711, which is probably not far from the truth. The mean density of the sun is 1-4 that of the earth, and the mean density of the whole system is 1-7 that of the earth. The mean density of the sun is therefore about 1-28 that of water, and the mean density of the whole system is about 1-50 that of water. The sun's surface gravity is 28 times that of the earth, and the mean gravity of the whole system is 1-40 that of the earth. The sun's mass is 332,000 times that of the earth, and the mass of the whole system is 466,000 times that of the earth. The sun's volume is 1,300,000 times that of the earth, and the volume of the whole system is 1,800,000 times that of the earth. The sun's diameter is 882,000 miles, and the diameter of the whole system is 1,000,000 miles. The sun's surface gravity is 28 times that of the earth, and the mean gravity of the whole system is 1-40 that of the earth. The sun's mass is 332,000 times that of the earth, and the mass of the whole system is 466,000 times that of the earth. The sun's volume is 1,300,000 times that of the earth, and the volume of the whole system is 1,800,000 times that of the earth. The sun's diameter is 882,000 miles, and the diameter of the whole system is 1,000,000 miles.

The vastness of the aggregate of weight of the solar system becomes almost bewildering when we remember that it is made up in large part of minute particles of matter, not one in a million exceeding a few grains in weight; while even the minute weight but a few tons each. Their number is almost infinite, and their course around the sun is every conceivable direction, and with every possible length of orbit. Astronomy can give no idea of the limits of the system—which probably extends across thousands of millions of miles beyond the orbit of Neptune.

The Chicago Republican noted are accurately true, only on the supposition that the sun's parallax and angular diameter are as given. They may be subject to a slight alteration after the transit of Venus in 1874 when a decided advance will be made in the elements of the sun. But the possible range of values is small. The weight of the earth is probably not more than that of 600, nor more than that of 630 earths. I may add that a few points of difference brought out in the calculations, involved only a difference of 1-1000 in the weight of the solar disc, but to the fact that the refractive properties of our atmosphere bend the rays of the sun's disc more than those of the moon, so that the moon's disc is not quite so much flattened as about four feet wide, well defined, and projects above the surface from four to six feet, the vein rock being much harder than that on each side of it. It has been traced for miles through the country, and to the north of Thursday Bay. Captain Bock has sunk a shaft about ten feet in depth in the vein, and 50 per cent of the rock obtained from the same assays to the eye to be pure silver. The discovery of an extensive vein of ore in the Legislature of Illinois ought to request Congress to authorize and require the Secretary of the Treasury to receive from the State the $2,000,000 of United States notes no longer a legal tender in payment of the State debt, and in exchange therefor $2,000,-000 of coin out of the $80,000,000 in gold now lying idle in the Treasury vaults and not needed for any public use, save by its withdrawal from general circulation to swell up the gold premium.

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NEW BOOKS.

DANTE. A Tragedy, by James Thomson. With a Memoir of the Author, by Bertram Dobell. London: Reeves & Turner.

It is but a short time since Mr. Longfellow's translation of Dante, and Mr. Bryant's translation of Homer appeared, and yet we have another version of Dante, and one even more remarkable than either. Mr. Longfellow's work, while his translation of Purgatorio, Canto XXVI, is, as it is also in this, the scholarly exactness of a master, is open to the charge of stiffness and lack of poetic fire. Mr. Taylor dwells with the utmost fidelity of this work of his master's life, his version of which, both by its literalness and its poetic fire, is by far the best version by the author of the Divine Comedy.

GOLD

was touched at the prices current for the past three weeks, the highest point reached at 1:30, the closing rate was from 1 per cent to 1 per cent in gold for carrying, and closed at 4 in currency.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

was dull, the rate ruling steady from the beginning was 109½, for sight, and for sight on London.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

There was nothing doing in the government bond market, but the offer was firm.

STOCKS.

On the receipt of the last statement, the stock market showed considerable activity. Mr. Fargo was elected a Director.

THE EXPRESS COMPANIES

exhibited a great increase of business of late, and still larger receipts, which the increase of rates was small in proportion. The details were as follows: Loans increased $1,150,000; specie, $1,000,-215; legal-tenders, $1,784,000; deposits, $3,824,-000. The circulation decreased $66,776.

THE UNION PACIFIC ONWARD.

Private advices from Washington say that the government engineers will soon commence work on the Union Pacific Railroad in an early and permanent manner.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding adverse foreign advices, the breadstuffs markets were strong, which was one principal cause of the rapid rise in gold. The consumption of a still further decline. The Franco-Prussian war light, as letters did not appear to rise in any considerable degree.

[By the Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—All important decision was rendered to-day by the Supreme Court, in the Supreme Court, relating to the right of the Legislature to abrogate the books of the city. The decision was rendered by Judge Cardozo, and will, was the owner of Ninety shares of Erie Railroad stock, which stand undisputed in the name of Ninety days before the decision, and Ninety days before the decision, and was, to Judge, issued to Jay Gould, and Jay Gould, and Jay Gould, and

FOREIGN.

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

THE HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS.

Paris, Jan. 3.—The Versailles Correspondent of the New York Herald, writing under date of Dec. 31, says: "The headquarters of Count Von Moltke, whose big shot weighing twenty-four pounds, weighing 1,000 pounds, was fired into the city on the 27th, have been established at Versailles, in the house of Mr. Frederick Taylor, the banker of the Grand Duke of Baden, on the road to the Chesnut trees. The Crown Prince of Prussia has established his headquarters at the Prefecture of Versailles, in the house of Mr.

WASHINGTON.

The San Domingo Matter Considered in the House.

The Senate Resolution Called Up after Much Filibustering.

A Final Vote to Be Taken To-Day.

List of Officers of the Ill-Fated Steamer Saginaw.

What Minister Washburne is Doing in Paris.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

Retail Boot and Shoe Dealers

THE RICHMOND HOUSE FURNITURE

WILSON IN ORATORIO.

MRS. D. P. BOWERS,

J. O. McCULLOM.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

THE LAW COURTS.

THE PARK AND GARDEN.